



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

November 16, 2011

Comm. Dan Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Brabec, Gunn, Peterson, Ping, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, and Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator, Verna McDaniel; Interim Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Belknap; Corporation Counsel Curtis Hedger; Diane Heidt, Human Resources; Mary Jo Callan, Community Development; Tony VanDerworp, Economic Development and Energy; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Andy Brush, Information Technology; Dave Shirley, Facilities; Ben Toole, ITS; Jason Brooks, County Administration; Peter Simms, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Judge Tabbey introduced the new Court Administrator, Robert Ciolek, to the Board. Robert Ciolek stated that he had come out of retirement to serve in this capacity. He stated that it was nice to meet the commissioners.

Thomas Partridge, Democrat, stated that there are commissioners on the board who would pare the time allotted for citizen participation down to 30 seconds if they could. He went on to say that he was there to call on the Washtenaw County Commission to reverse the cuts that they had made to the budget and work more diligently to come up with additional sources of revenue. He finished by endorsing the grants that were on the agenda before the board.

Douglas Smith, Pittsfield Twp, stated that he had received a phone call from a lawyer representing the County who had told him that pursuing a FOIA Lawsuit would be a costly process for him. He stated a confidence that he would win a FOIA Lawsuit.

Dr. Stacey Weinrick stated that she works as the lead out-patient veterinarian for the Humane Society. She noted that the HSHV provides veterinary care for low income families who might otherwise not be able to afford veterinary care for their pets. She added that the work the HSHV does is hard, stressful and dangerous. She went on to say that Washtenaw County is lucky to have HSHV which prevents many animals from being euthanized. She stated the opinion that private companies cannot perform euthanization with the care that the process requires.

Nicole Gerbens, Volunteer HSHV, stated a hope that the County will renew a contract with HSHV in a fair and equitable way. She noted that as a teacher she teaches her students to care for animals properly. She added that HSHV takes very good care of its animals.

Susan Karp, Volunteer HSHV, stated that she has two dogs and four cats and that all of her animals were adopted from shelters. She went on to say that Washtenaw County has had a long standing contract with HSHV. She noted that HSHV provides care for stray and abused animals in the county. She stated the opinion that ending the relationship with HSHV would not save the county money. She asked the Board to continue the relationship with HSHV. She also spoke out against potential raises for county employees.

Eric Apollo thanked the commissioners who have met with the HSHV. He added that it was irresponsible to vote on the budget when the Animal Control issue had not been solved. He noted that he had adopted a dog, Mr. Charlie, who he considered to be a family member not a pet. He went on to say that he volunteered at HSHV on Veterans Day and paired a veteran with two stray animals which he felt was a patriotic duty. He finished with a quote contrasting the moral fiber of animals and people.

Mike Sivack, stated that he is directly involved with controlling the feral cat population around Ann Arbor. He added that the HSHV is an incredible facility in regards to handling sick and injured animals. He noted that HSHV greatly reduces the amount of time that the public in Washtenaw County is exposed to sick wild animals like raccoons with rabies.

Marge Hagene, Board Chair Foodgatherers, urged the Board to uphold the funding to this program via coordinated funding. She noted that the loss of funding will undermine the organization's efforts and send a bad message to Human Services organizations. She asked the Board to remember their priorities for funding. She added that Foodgatherers met the principles and standards laid out by the Board. She asked that the Board not reduce funding to this program.

Jessica Anderson stated that she had read the County's mission. She noted that by keeping the County's mission in mind then there was no question about what must be done in regards to HSHV. She reported that she imagined that the County would need to build a gas chamber and hire a veterinarian if the relationship with HSHV was ended. She stated that she was disappointed by the budget process she had witnessed the Board go through.

Taylor (no last name given) stated that she has never been involved with local politics before but that it was important to her to express how important the HSHV is and how many people it impacts.

Olga Virakhovskaya stated that she has also never been involved with local politics. She noted that there are really good people involved with the HSHV. She added that the HSHV enriches many lives. She stated that what makes a person human is their ability to help those in need.

Heather Karschner thanked the commissioners who have made an effort to reach out to the HSHV and learn more. She asked the Board to continue their discussions with HSHV. She added that she was not convinced that the County will save money by ending their relationship with HSHV. She urged the Board to learn more about the issue before they made a final decision.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizens' Participation

Comm. Rabhi thanked the audience for coming to the meeting. He stated that he had some comments which he would save for the board meeting when the budget would be discussed.

Comm. Dan Smith clarified the board process for those members of the audience who were unfamiliar with the proceedings of the board.

New Business:

A. Public Safety & Justice

1. Office of the Sheriff – Emergency Services:

a. Emergency Management Performance Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the signature of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the emergency management work agreement; ratify the signature of the County Administrator on the emergency management performance grant local budget and on the state of Michigan emergency management performance grant agreement with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division for the period October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012 in the amount of \$78,416; and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

B. Economic Development:

1. ETCS:

a. Annual Jobs, Education, Training (JET) Plan:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners ratify the Chair of the Board's signature on the application to the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM) for the Employment Training and Community Services (ETCS) fiscal year (FY) 2012 JET plan in the amount of \$1,127,391 for the period of October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012 for the ETCS department;

authorizing the County Administrator to sign the notice of grant awards; approving the budget; and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

b. Food Assistance Employment and Training Program:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the fiscal year (FY) 2012 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) program plan application to the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan (WDASOM) for Employment Training and Community Services (ETCS) in the amount of \$92,360 for the period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012; authorizing the Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; approving the budget and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

C. Health:

1. Public Health:

a. Hiring a Public Health Director of Nursing above Midpoint:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the hiring of Deborah Cain RN, MPA as Public Health Director of Nursing at an annual salary of \$83,000 which is above the \$73,964 midpoint for a Non-Union Grade 32 position, effective December 12, 2011. The requested salary is within the range for a Non-Union Grade 32 position of \$59,641 to \$88,285. The previous occupant of this position made \$95,342 at the time of departure from County service. This included an 8% increase due to a temporary assignment of duties now being shifted around as Public Health restructures in the wake of declining revenue. Resulting non-general fund salary savings will be \$12,342 annually. The preferred candidate has qualifications and experience that meet or exceed requirements for this position, and mid-point is below the candidate's current salary.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

D. Land Use & Environment:

1. Water Resources:

a. 2012 Survey & Remonumentation Grant:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the 2012 Remonumentation program in the amount of \$105,802; appointing a County Grant Administrator and County Representative; authorizing the Grant Administrator to sign the notice of grant award; amending the budget and authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

b. Bond for Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the sale of bonds and pledging the County's Full Faith and Credit to construct improvements to the Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority (WWRA) Material Recovery Facility in an amount not to exceed \$2.7 million.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

E. Support Services:

1. Human Resources:

a. Public Employee Health Insurance Reform:

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize any Washtenaw County collective bargaining agreements entered into on or after September 15, 2011 comply with Section 4 of PA152 of 2011, referred to as the 80/20 rule.

Roll call vote: YEAS: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 (Comm. Rolland Sizemore) Motion carried.

Report of the Administrator:

None

Report of the Chair of the Board

Comm. Conan Smith noted that the next morning (Thursday, November 17, 2011) Curt Hedger would be distributing the contract with Police Services to the Board. He urged the commissioners to review this contract as it would not come back before the board. He noted that he would be turning the meeting over to Comm. Ping as he did not feel well. Comm. Ping stated there would be a ten minute break after adjournment.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Prater stated that he was interested in having a Working session on Veterans. Comm. Rabhi asked Jason Brooks to take note of that so that a Working Session could be held soon.

Citizen Participation

Thomas Partridge called on the Board to take the County budget more seriously than they had done in the past. He asked the Board what percentage of the property tax that was allowed to be accessed by the County was being accessed by tax millages. He encouraged the Board to ask for additional property tax revenues from wealthy residents of Washtenaw County.

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Pending

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until December 7th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Dan Smith, Vice Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: